2021

AP® CollegeBoard

AP® Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

Inside:

Free Response Question 3

- ☑ **Scoring Guideline**
- ☑ **Student Samples**
- ☑ **Scoring Commentary**

© 2021 College Board. College Board, Advanced Placement, AP, AP Central, and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of College Board. Visit College Board on the web: collegeboard.org.

AP Central is the official online home for the AP Program: apcentral.collegeboard.org.

Question 3: Comparative Analysis — 5 points

(a) Define social movements. **1 point**

Acceptable definitions include:

- Sustained grassroots organization/action demanding reforms/changes in existing socio-economic or government practices.
- Large and sometimes informal groupings of individuals or organizations that focus on specific political or social issues.
- Loosely organized but sustained campaigns in support of a social goal, typically either the implementation or the prevention of a change in society's structures or values.

(b) Describe two different examples of a social movement, each one within a different AP Comparative Government and Politics course country. **2 points**

Acceptable descriptions include (max one point per country):

- In the United Kingdom, the Brexit/Leave movement to withdraw from EU.
- In the United Kingdom, the Scottish Nationalists' effort to declare independence from the United Kingdom.
- In the United Kingdom in the 1990s there were regional independence movements in Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland.
- In the United Kingdom, the UK Occupy movement to regulate banking and redistribute wealth.
- In the United Kingdom, the LGBT movement for gay rights and marriage equality.
- In the United Kingdom, there was a Black Lives Matter movement focused on ending racial discrimination, reforming the education system, and ending racial health disparities.
- In Russia, grassroots movements have organized around regional/local environmental issues such as clean water, air pollution, and waste disposal.
- In Russia, there is a movement to ban hostels in order to stop/restrict/regulate urban development in Moscow.
- In Russia, the Left Front is protesting against globalization.
- In Russia, the Federation of Independent Trade Unions is working toward better pay, benefits, pensions.
- In Russia, the March of Millions was organized to protest election fraud.
- In Russia, there is an LGBT/Gay Pride movement for gay rights and marriage equality.
- In China, MinYun (Chinese Democracy Movement) works to encourage democracy.
- In China, there is an Umbrella Movement for democracy/independence/autonomy for Hong Kong.
- In China, the New Citizens Movement fights against corruption.
- In China, there is a movement for an independent Tibet for independence/autonomy for Tibet.
- In China, there is a Tongzhi LGBT movement for gay rights/antidiscrimination.
- In China, Greenpeace/environmental groups work to clean up the environment.
- In China there is a religious movement known as Falun Gong.

© 2021 College Board

- In Nigeria, Labor Congress (NLC) works for better wages, benefits, infrastructure.
- In Nigeria, Occupy Nigeria works against elimination of subsidies for gas, food.
- In Nigeria, there is a Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) for recreation of an independent state of Biafra.
- In Nigeria, MEND works on issues such as the environment, local autonomy, and control of oil, and indigenous rights.
- In Nigeria, the Bring Back the Girls movement emphasizes the government's reaction to the kidnapping of schoolgirls by Boko Haram.
- In Nigeria, the Not-too-Young-to-Run Movement works to lower the age requirement to run for president from 40 to 35.
- In Mexico, there is an LGBT rights movement for gay rights/antidiscrimination.
- In Mexico, there are anti-abortion/pro-life activists.
- In Mexico, teachers' unions protest fraud/corruption/salary–tenure reductions.
- In Mexico, there are various groups against corruption/cartels.
- In Mexico, EZLN/Zapatistas work for indigenous rights/anti globalism–NAFTA/economic redistribution.
- In Mexico, the movement for women's rights demands gender equality in areas like politics/gender quotas/protest of femicides.
- In Iran, there is a Green Movement/Green Path for political reform and liberalization.
- In Iran, there is a One Million Signatures campaign for women's rights.
- In Iran, May Day protests are for higher wages, better benefits.

(c) Explain how the social movements have influenced government policies for each of the two AP Comparative Government and Politics course countries described in part (b). **2 points**

Acceptable explanations include (max one point per country):

- Movements resulted in efforts by the government to restrict/repress/prohibit the social movement and its members.
- Accommodation/cooption of movement members and issues into mainstream party or policy.
- Governments ignore social movement and members until they fade.
- A specific example of social movement success in influencing government policy.

Total for question 3 **5 points**

© 2021 College Board

Question 1 ○ Question 2 ○ Question 3 ● Question 4 ○

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

a. A social movement describes a group of citizens organizing and collaborating with the goal of enacting societal and political change. These movements are often catalyzed by an external stimulus, such as an evolving national trend that may negatively affect certain groups more than others.

b. One example of a social movement can be seen in the United Kingdom during the 2010s. As a member of the European Union, the U.K. shared border policies with many nations, like Germany, that were open to refugees. This led to a great influx of immigrants into the U.K., changing the country's opposition. Many rural and suburban citizens felt threatened and that this new demographic composition challenged the British identity. Thus, a group of predominantly white conservatives organized a social movement that called for the country's exit from the European Union. Another social movement that occurred during the 2010s and 2020s can be found in Russia. Frustrated with high levels of corruption in government, many young Russians have become emboldened to protest and criticize President Putin, elevating Alexei Navalny as the face of their movement.

c. In the UK, the social movement of nationalism and populism described above highly influenced national government policy as it led to British exit from the EU. In response to the movement, British Prime Minister David

Question 1 ○ Question 2 ○ Question 3 ● Question 4 ○

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

Cameron and the British parliament decided to call a referendum, during which a majority of British voters voted to leave the union. This collossal change would not have occurred without pressure from the populist and nationalist social movement. Just as social movements influence government policy in the United Kingdom, the Russian government also responds to social movements through policy. Because Russia is not a democratic regime, the Russian government uses rule by law to respond to social movements that challenge the power of government leaders. In response to the anti-Putin and anti-Russian movement sponsored by Navalny, the Russian government arrested protesters and outlawed support of the opposition party.

Sample 3B

Question 1 ○ Question 2 ○ Question 3 ● Question 4 ○

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A) Social movements are initiatives towards some sort of social or political change in a state/nation, often led by citizens and leaders of special interest groups that support the movement's goals.

B) One example of a social movement is the cultural Revolution in China, also known as the Great Leap Forward, in which many old traditions were purged and China entered an age of communism. Another example is the movement for more LGBTQ+ rights in the United Kingdom, fighting for equal rights + protections for LGBTQ+ citizens under the laws.

C) For China, the Cultural Revolution served as a major shift in the type of government and its policies. China adopted more authoritarian policies that limited political freedom of individuals. In the UK, laws have been passed to allow ~~members~~ gay marriage and protections against discrimination for LGBTQ+ citizens.

Sample 3C

Question 1 ○ Question 2 ○ Question 3 ● Question 4 ○

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

Social movements have always been around when there is a government, some less prevalent than others. In Mexico there was the Zapatistas fighting for justice and equal opportunity. Though social movements can vary, in Iran there was the green movement where the citizens were looking out for the environment. Social movements are efforts to change a governments way of addressing a topic be it ethical or a matter of moral issues. The Zapatistas were able to achieve their goal when the Mexican government inserted a quota. The Green movement opened Iran's eyes on environmental issues.

Question 3
Comparative Analysis

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of the concept of social movements and their ability to describe and explain the impact of social movements in countries studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students first were expected to define social movements. Then they had to demonstrate their understanding of social movements by describing two examples of social movements in two course countries. Finally, students needed to demonstrate their understanding of the relationship between social movements and policymaking by explaining how social movements in those two countries have impacted government policies.

Sample: 3A
Score: 5

The response earned 1 point in part (a) for correctly defining social movements: "A social movement describes a group of citizens organizing and collaborating with the goal of enacting societal and political change."

The response earned 1 point in part (b) for correctly describing a social movement in the United Kingdom: "Many rural and suburban citizens felt threatened and that this new demographic composition challenged the british identity. Thus, a group of predominantly white conservatives organized a social movement that called for the country's exit from the European Union." The response earned a second point for correctly describing a social movement in Russia: "Another social movement that occurred during the 2010s and 2020s can be found in Russia. Frustrated with high levels of corruption in government, many young Russians have become emboldened to protest and criticize President Putin, elevating Alexei Navalny as the face of their movement."

The response earned 1 point in part (c) for correctly explaining how the social movement identified in part (b) influenced government policies in the United Kingdom: "In the UK, the social movement of nationalism and populism described above highly influenced national government policy as it led to British exit from the EU." The response earned a second point by correctly describing how the social movement described in part (b) influenced government policies in Russia: "Because Russia is not a democratic regime, the Russian government uses rule by law to respond to social movements that challenge the power of government leaders. In response to the anti-Putin and anti-Russian movement sponsored by Navalny, the Russian government arrested protesters."

Sample: 3B
Score: 3

The response earned 1 point in part (a) for correctly defining social movements: "Social movements are initiatives towards some sort of social or political change in a state/nation, often led by citizens and leaders of special interest groups that support the movement's goals."

The response earned 1 point in part (b) for correctly describing a social movement in the United Kingdom: "Another example is the movement for more LGBTQ+ rights in the United Kingdom, fighting for equal rights + protections for LGBTQ+ citizens under the law." The response did not earn a second point for China as the "Great Leap Forward" it describes is not an accepted example of a social movement.

The response earned 1 point in part (c) for correctly explaining how the social movement identified in part (b) influenced government policies in the United Kingdom: "In the UK, laws have been passed to allow gay marriage and protections against discrimination for LGBTQ+ citizens." The response did not earn a second point for China as the Cultural Revolution is not an accepted example of a social movement and no social movement activities are discussed.

© 2021 College Board.
Visit College Board on the web: collegeboard.org.

Question 3 (continued)

Sample: 3C
Score: 1

The response did not earn a point in part (a) for defining social movements. “Social movements have always been around” is not a definition.

The response earned 1 point in part (b) for correctly describing a social movement in Mexico: “In Mexico there was the Zapatistas fighting for justice and equal opportunity.” The response did not earn a second point for Iran as the Green movement is incorrectly described as “looking out for the environment” instead of as focusing on corruption in elections.

The response did not earn a point in part (c) for explaining how the social movement described in part (b) has influenced government policies in Mexico. Though the response claims, “The Zapatistas were able to achieve their goal when the Mexican government inserted a quota,” this is too vague to constitute an explanation. It is unclear what quota the response is referring to or how the Zapatistas influenced the government to adopt the quota. The response did not earn a second point for explaining the impact of a social movement on government policies in Iran. “The Green movement opened Iran’s eyes on environmental issues” omits any reference to how the movement effected a policy response from the government.

© 2021 College Board.
Visit College Board on the web: collegeboard.org.